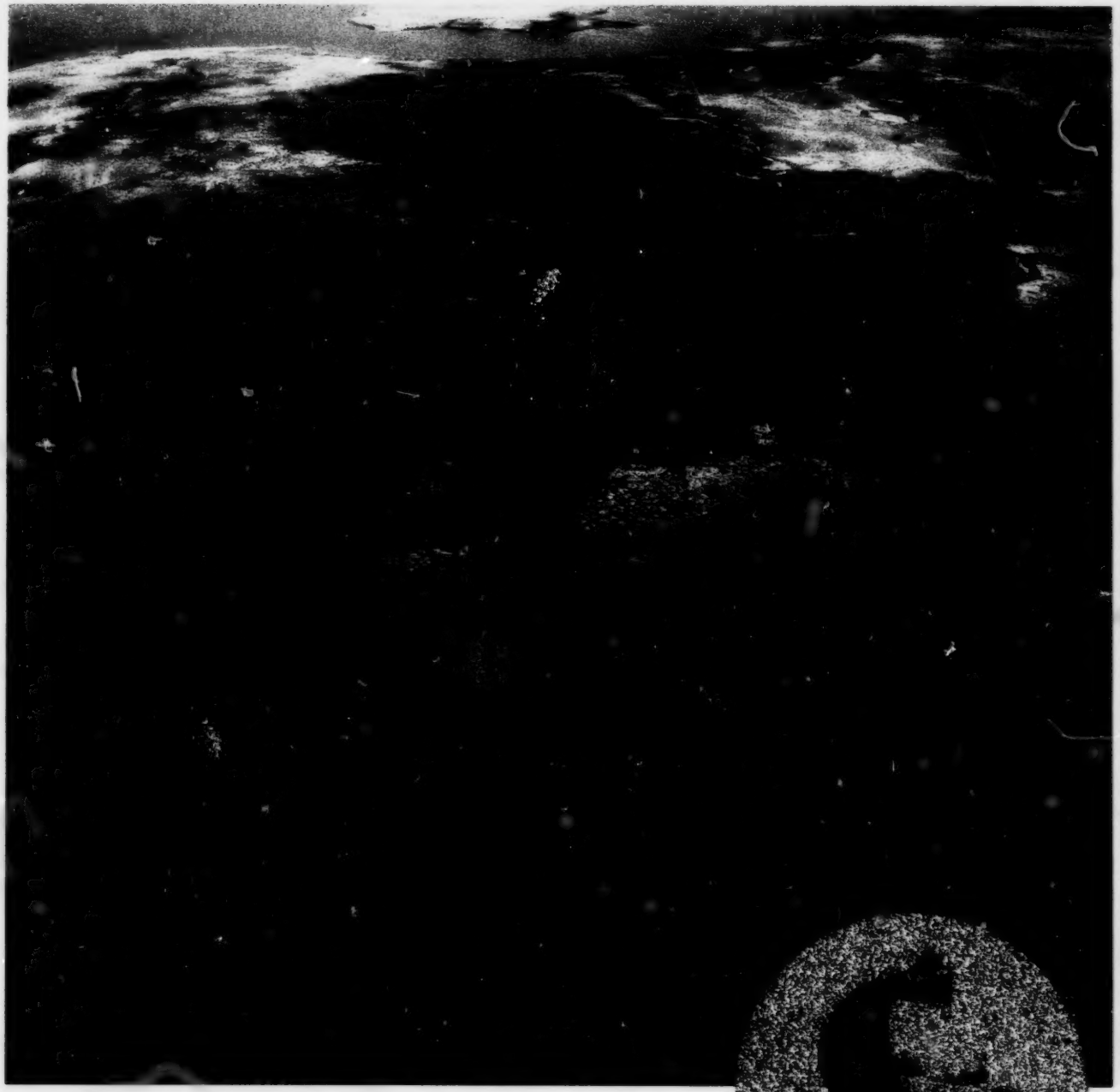
Fisheries Joint Management Committee

Annual Report
1986/87



FJMC

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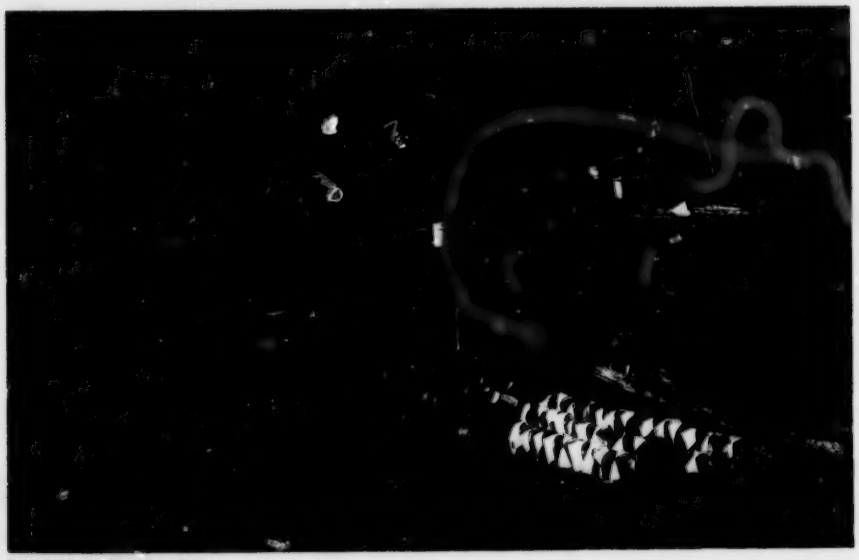

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Foreword

In 1986 the Fisheries Joint Management Committee was established as prescribed by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. In its first year the Committee put a great deal of effort into establishing itself and developing its own working procedures. The Committee worked closely with other government agencies on several programs and authorized research and assessment projects as part of its ongoing responsibilities.

This, the first in what will be a continuing series of Annual Reports, covers the 1986 fiscal year commencing in April 1986 and concluding in March 1987, describes these activities. The Committee hopes that the Annual Reports will provide useful summaries of its activities for all who are concerned with the management of the fisheries within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Chairman:
Gerald Yaremchuk

Members:
Alex Aviugana
Don Dowler
Nelson Green
Michelle Roberge

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Introduction

As prescribed by Section 14(61) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans established the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) in 1986. The committee consists of two Inuvialuit members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), two members appointed by the government through Order in Council appointments and a Committee-elected chairman. The Committee has five main functions or areas of responsibility:

- to provide a forum for exchange of information on the policies, programs, and activities of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that affect the fisheries of the region and to formulate advice to the Minister on those general topics;

- to make recommendations to the Minister on Inuvialuit subsistence quotas for fish, harvestable quotas for marine mammals, and regulations for sport and commercial fishing including the allocation of preferential fishing licenses for waters on Inuvialuit lands;

- to collect and review information on the status of fisheries in which the Inuvialuit have an interest, and to determine current levels of harvest;

- to allocate subsistence quotas among communities;

- to develop and maintain a public registration system for non-beneficiaries who wish to fish in waters on Inuvialuit lands, and where necessary for reasons of conservation or conflict with other Inuvialuit activities, to regulate public right of fishing access to such lands.

In 1986/87 the FJMC undertook several activities in order to carry out its responsibilities. The Committee worked in cooperation with other government agencies to develop a harvest data collection system to acquire information on the native subsistence harvests of both fish and marine mammals. The FJMC authorized eight research and assessment projects and assumed responsibility from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the collection of data on the harvesting of beluga whales in the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea area. These and other activities undertaken by the FJMC during the fiscal year 1986/87 will be described in this the first in a series of Annual Reports.

Activities

1. Meetings

Six meetings of the FJMC were held during the reporting year. In addition Committee members attended the following on behalf of the FJMC:

- Conference on the Biology of the Bowhead Whale
- Canada/U.S./Alaska Arctic Fisheries Workshop
- Cetacean Tracking Workshop.

The FJMC conducted a community tour in February, 1987 to meet with the Hunters and Trappers Committees in each of the six communities within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. These meetings had a twofold purpose: to introduce the FJMC to the communities and to provide an opportunity for the communities to identify their needs and concerns for the fish and marine mammal resources within their area. A summary of topics and discussions is provided in Appendix A.

A meeting also was held with representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Central and Arctic Region on research/assessment activities to be conducted within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region during the next fiscal year (1987/88).

2. Control of Fishing on Inuvialuit Lands

The FJMC has the responsibility under the final agreement to establish a registration system to control fishing on Inuvialuit lands.

Various approaches were discussed within the Committee and with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Inuvialuit Land Administration (ILA). Discussions on ways of discharging this responsibility with a view to identifying a system that would meet the needs of all interested groups are continuing. Future controls may include a special sport fishing license (under the Fisheries Act) for relevant water bodies within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).

Meanwhile the Department of Fisheries and Oceans continue to manage and monitor fishing activities within the ISR.

3. Regulatory Amendments

Amendments to the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations, the Yukon Fishery Regulations, the Beluga Protection Regulations, and the Walrus Protection Regulations were drafted and entered into the annual regulatory process. These amendments were requested so that the regulations would conform to the provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) and included provisions for deletion of license fees for beneficiaries of the IFA; to allow sale, trade, and barter of subsistence fish and marine mammals to other Inuvialuit; to permit the export of beluga for personal use or for educational or scientific purposes; and to permit the unrestricted movement of fishery products within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Northwest Territories.

Re-organization of the commercial fishing areas in the western Arctic to conform to the boundaries of the ISR commenced. Revisions to Schedule V of the Northwest Territories Fishery Regulations to list water bodies within the ISR were initiated such that they conform to the provisions of the IFA which provides preferential rights to the Inuvialuit to harvest fish commercially within the ISR.

Development of regulatory changes took place within the FJMC and in consultation with the Inuvialuit Game Council which represents all community hunters, trappers, and fishermen.

4. Bowhead Whale

Members of the FJMC attended the 4th Conference on the Biology of the Bowhead Whale, *Balaena mysticetus*, in Anchorage, Alaska in March 1987.

Two bowhead tagging studies proposed for the summer of 1986 were reviewed. The Committee recommended that the necessary permits be issued. Only one of the studies was carried out.

The Committee was informed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that a decision on the importation of bowhead whale products from Alaska and on bowhead hunting by Inuvialuit would be made when a specific written request was received from the Inuvialuit Game Council.

5. Beluga Management Technical Working Group

The FJMC assumed responsibility for the Beluga Management Technical Working Group from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 1986. The working group consisted of members from the Department, the oil and gas industry, and Inuvialuit harvesters. The task of the working group was to provide structured guidance for the long term management of the beluga whale in the Canadian Beaufort Sea. The final report, including management and research recommendations, was anticipated for the spring of 1987.

6.Test Fishery Permits

The FJMC reviewed one application for a Test Fishery Permit to harvest Arctic charr from the Ptarmigan Bay (Firth River) area. The Committee, after receiving advice from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, recommended against issuance of the permit for 1986/87 pending further analysis of stock data and consultation with the community of Aklavik.

7. Scientific Permits

The FJMC reviewed four applications for Scientific Permits.

i) Canadian Wildlife Service
Request to collect young-of-the-year coregonids in the vicinity of Tuktoyaktuk in conjunction with a study to monitor the effect of offshore oil and gas development on birds. The Committee had no comment.

ii) Canadian Wildlife Service
Request to collect ringed seals from the waters off Tuktoyaktuk in conjunction with a study of factors associated with aggregations of seals.

The Committee recommended that the permit limit the number of strikes allowed, that all collecting be done by local hunters, and that the permit stipulate that researchers consult and reach agreement with the Tuktoyaktuk HTC before collecting.

iii) DFO (Arctic Biological Station)
Request to take Arctic charr and ringed seals at Walker Bay as part of the marine field camp, Renewable Resources Training Program, Thebacha College. The Committee had no comment except to advise the applicant that a land use permit may be required if the camp is on Inuvialuit land.

iv) Memorial University
Request to collect a number of fish species from the Peel, Arctic Red, and Mackenzie rivers in order to investigate post-glacial dispersion of fishes. The Committee had no comment.

Programs

1. Harvest Data Collection

The FJMC is responsible for monitoring native subsistence harvests of both fish and marine mammals and sport fishing on Inuvialuit lands. The DFO continues to be responsible for monitoring commercial and non-native subsistence harvests.

A working group, consisting of members from each of the government fish and wildlife agencies and lead by the Government of the Northwest Territories, was formed to develop a subsistence harvesting data collection system. The system will be designed to acquire information required by the three wildlife committees established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (FJMC, Wildlife Management Advisory Councils — North Slope and NWT) and by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board.

2. Beluga Hunt Monitoring

The FJMC assumed responsibility from the DFO in 1986 for the collection of data on the harvesting of beluga whales *(Delphinapterus leucas)* in the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea area. The majority of the information is collected by Inuvialuit monitors who interview hunters and measure whales on site. The data collected will be used in formulating a management strategy for beluga.

Research/Assessment Projects

The FJMC authorized various inventory, assessment, and research projects to be conducted on fish and marine mammal populations or stocks occurring within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The following are summaries of the studies conducted on behalf of the Committee in 1986/87.

1. Pacific herring — Liverpool Bay

Aerial surveys were conducted of Liverpool Bay (Tuktoyaktuk area) in an attempt to locate concentrations of Pacific herring and thus establish whether the stock is sufficiently large to support a commercial herring roe fishery. In addition to the aerial surveys, gill net sampling was carried out between flights. A mixed strip-shore survey model was used, providing visual search of 34% of the 6,000 km^2 study area. Aerial surveys were not successful in locating schools of fish. Gill net studies conducted in the lower portion of Liverpool Bay revealed that herring were the most abundant fish species. The presence of beluga whales in Liverpool Bay during all aerial surveys indicates its importance as a feeding area, possibly due to an abundance of herring.

2. Arctic charr — Big Fish and Rat Rivers

Subsistence and commercial fishermen from Aklavik and Fort McPherson fish for Arctic charr in the western Mackenzie Delta. Fishing takes place as the charr migrate upstream, through the delta, to spawning and overwintering grounds on the tributaries of the Rat and Big Fish rivers. In 1986, these subsistence and commercial fisheries were surveyed. Harvest data and biological samples of Arctic charr were collected from the Big Fish River, Shingle Point, and Rat River areas.

3. Arctic Charr — Kuuk River

Fishermen from Holman have expressed an interest in the development of a commercial Arctic charr fishery in the Prince Albert Sound area. In 1986 the second year of a test fishery program was completed. The program was designed to assess the Kuuk River charr population and to determine the feasibility of establishing a commercial charr fishery on this river. The program was not completed due to unfavorable ice conditions, however baseline biological data were collected.

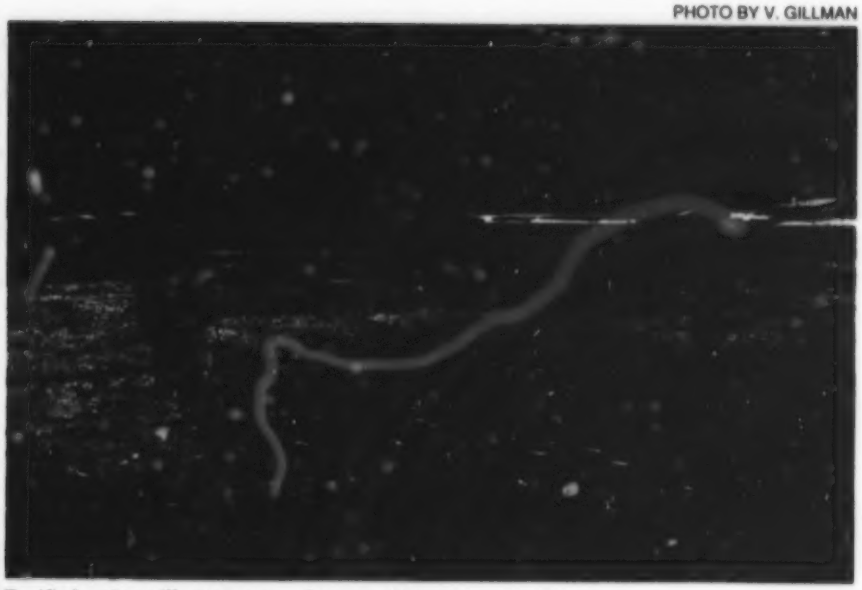
4. Arctic charr — Hornaday River

Paulatuk fishermen have traditionally fished for Arctic charr in the Hornaday River. A commercial fishery on the river has also been operating for the last two decades. In recent years the Paulatuk HTA has expressed concern over the reduced catches of charr from the river. In 1986 a test fishery program was undertaken. The program was designed to assess the Hornaday charr population to determine whether the existing commercial quota should be raised or lowered and to determine the feasibility of using a fish weir for commercial fishing. Only a partial count of the upstream migration of charr was completed before the weir was washed out by high water. It was estimated that 70% of the run had been counted before the wash out. A number of fish were also measured and sampled. It was recommended that the commercial fishery be closed to allow the stock to recover. It also was concluded that, given a suitable location, a weir would be the preferred method of harvesting migrating Arctic charr to produce a top quality product.

PHOTO BY P. WEAVER

Beluga hunt monitoring

PHOTO BY V. GILLMAN



Pacific herring gill net survey – Liverpool Bay

PHOTO BY A. KRISTOFFERSON

Arctic charr fisheries survey – Big Fish and Rat Rivers

PHOTO BY R. BAKER

Arctic charr assessment – Kuuk River

PHOTOS BY A. KRISTOFFERSON

Arctic charr assessment – Hornaday River

PHOTO BY J. REIST

Arctic charr – Stock separation

PHOTO BY K. CHANG-KUE

Broad whitefish stream blockage – Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula

PHOTO BY B. BOND

Fish habitat assessment – Yukon North Slope area

5. Arctic charr — Stock Separation

Samples of Arctic charr were obtained from six known spawning locations (four rivers) from the western Mackenzie Delta/Yukon North Slope and one location from Victoria Island. Data collected included measurements and counts of body parts. Together with genetic analysis of the samples, these data will help identify management stocks. Color measurements and other biological measurements were also taken. These and other samples, acquired in DFO programs, will be analyzed over the next few years. The information gained will aid future management of Arctic charr stocks.

6. Broad whitefish — Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula

Fishermen from Tuktoyaktuk have indicated that broad whitefish are becoming scarce during the fall in the Mackenzie estuary. In 1986, adult broad whitefish were found to be trapped in a stream on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula above a blockage created by a log jam. Log jams often occur on such streams as a result of storm surges. The logs were manually removed to allow the passage of fish through the stream. A program for 1987 was designed by the DFO to evaluate the effectiveness of stream clearing by observing if fish can move through the channel cleared in the log jam.

7. Fish Habitat Assessment — Yukon North Slope

FJMC provided funds to assist an ongoing DFO project to collect baseline biological data on marine and anadromous fishes utilizing the nearshore habitats along the Yukon coast. Data were collected on longshore migratory patterns of anadromous fish and on significant feeding, spawning, nursery, and overwintering habitat. Data also were collected on the temperature and salinity of the inshore habitats and the relationships between these habitat characteristics and fish distribution and movement. This information will aid management of these stocks within Canada and contribute to cooperative management of stocks shared with Alaska.

8. Beaufort Sea Fishes — Data base

FJMC provided funding to input data on fish in the Beaufort Sea to data bases for the online Oceanographic Data Information System (ODIS). Funding was also provided for printing of data catalogues for seals, fish, and whales in the Beaufort Sea. Data for the data base and catalogues were assembled under a previous DFO program funded by the Northern Oil and Gas Action Program (NOGAP). This program will provide managers with easy access to information needed to make recommendations and management decisions.

PHOTO BY P. WEAVER

Budget

Collator	Project Name	Expenditures ($K)	
		Allocated	Actual
4401	Committee Operations	101	149
		40(cap.)	36(cap.)
	Harvest Data Collection	100	–
	Regulation of Fishing	50	2
		291	187
4402	Beluga Working Group	45	15
	Beluga Hunt Monitoring	25	22
	Charr Stock Assessments	45	66
	Charr Stock Separation	30	28
	North Slope Coregonid Stocks	15	15
	Beaufort Sea Data Compilation	19	19
	Herring Stock Assessment	25	26
	Stream Blockage	–	–
		204	191
TOTAL		495	378
Lapsed Funding		117	

Appendices

Appendix A

The FJMC conducted a tour of the six communities within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region from February 9-14, 1987. Meetings were held with the Hunters and Trappers Committees as well as community residents. The objectives of the meetings were 1) to introduce the members of the Committee and make the communities aware of the responsibilities of the FJMC to the communities and 2) to have the communities identify their needs and concerns for the fish and marine mammal resources within their area. The following is a summary of the project proposals for 1987/88 that were discussed.

Community	Species of Interest	Proposed Project
INUVIK	Broad Whitefish	1) Test Fisheries - Holmes Creek
		- Pete Creek
		2) Management Plan
		3) Creek Blockages - Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula
		- Northern Delta
	Arctic Charr	1) Management Plan
	Beluga Whales	1) Hunt Monitoring
AKLAVIK	Arctic Charr	1) Closure or Restriction of Fishery
		2) Big Fish River - Enumeration
		3) Habitat Damage - Spawning Areas
		4) Harvest Data - North Slope
	Broad Whitefish	1) Commercial Interests
		2) Management Plan
	Beluga Whales	1) Management Plan
		2) Guidelines for Tourism
	Bowhead Whales	1) Import and Harvest Enquiry
TUKTOYAKTUK	Broad Whitefish	1) Creek Blockages, Monitoring, and Clearing
		- Holmes Creek
		2) Management Plan
	Pacific Herring	1) Market Analysis and Local Product Use
SACHS HARBOUR	Seals	1) Shortage, Movement, and Distribution
	Beluga Whales	1) Movement and Distribution
		2) Harvest Methods
	Marine Invertebrates	1) Survey - Shellfish and Crustaceans
	Arctic Charr	1) Test Fisheries - Banks Island Rivers
		- Local Lakes
HOLMAN	Arctic Charr	1) Weir Fishery - Kuuk River
		2) Test Fisheries - Minto Inlet
		3) Weir Potential - Minto Inlet
		4) Tagging Study - Prince Albert Sound
		5) Test Fisheries - Prince Albert Sound
PAULATUK	Arctic Charr	1) Weir, Enumeration, and Tagging Study
		- Hornaday River
		2) Test Fisheries - Local Area Lakes and Rivers
	Beluga Whales	1) Monitoring - Movements and Availability

Appendix B

In October, 1986 the Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committees, established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, were incorporated as a Society: Joint Secretariat. The chairmen of the seven committees (Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Wildlife Management Advisory Council — North Slope, Wildlife Managment Council — NWT, Environmental Impact Screening Committee, Environmental Impact Review Board, Research Advisory Council, and Inuvialuit Game Council) formed the Board of Directors. The society receives its funding principally through contribution agreements with various government agencies. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will enter into a contribution agreement with the Joint Secretariat commencing in the fiscal year 1987/88.

The following is the application of the Joint Secretariat to have the Society incorporated under the NWT Societies Act:

Application

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we desire to have a Society incorporated under the Northwest Territories Societies Act and that:

1. The name of the Society is The Joint Secretariat — Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees; and

2. The objects of the Society are:

(a) To support and facilitate the interests of the wildlife and environmental councils, committees, and boards established pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement in matters relating to their responsibilities and interests.

(b) To provide administrative (financial/clerical) support to those councils, committees, and boards and to arrange logistics of meetings pursuant to the business of those councils, committees, and boards.

(c) To record and make available all materials associated with the business of those councils, committees, and boards as required by their chairman and other appropriate agencies.

(d) To establish and maintain working liaisons between the Joint Secretariat and other Inuvialuit organizations, Government, Industry, the Academic sector, and other relevant agencies or organizations.

(e) To provide technical resource support to those councils, committees, and boards as required by their Chairmen.

3. The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on in Inuvik.

Appendix C

The following are the Joint Secretariat — Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees By-laws under the Northwest Territories Society Act:

1. Terms of Admission

(i) The duly appointed Wildlife and Environmental Councils, Committees, and Boards established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (Western Arctic Claim) are eligible for voting membership of the Joint Secretariat — Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees, hereby referred to as the Joint Secretariat.

(ii) There shall be no membership fee.

2. Rights of Members

(i) All members of the Joint Secretariat shall have the right to take part in all activities and to use facilities established by the Joint Secretariat for the promotion of its objects, subject to such regulations as the Directors may from time to time prescribe for specific activities.

(ii) Each member shall be entitled to one vote at meetings.

3. Obligation of Members

Every member shall be obliged to follow the rules, regulations, and procedures as prescribed by the Board of Directors and as allowed for in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

4. Withdrawal of Members

Any member may withdraw from membership of the Joint Secretariat, by notice in writing to any member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director.

5. Meetings

(i) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Joint Secretariat shall be held between 31 and 180 days after the date of the fiscal year end.

(ii) Any member may call a meeting by presenting a signed request to the Chairman of the Board, who shall call a special meeting within twenty one days after receipt of such request.

(iii) Notice of the AGM or special meeting shall be given at least thirty days prior to the date set for the meeting, unless waived by all members.

(iv) A simple majority of the members of the Joint Secretariat shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, including conference telephone calls.

(v) If the Chairman is not present at a meeting, the members present will elect a Chairman for that meeting only.

(vi) Each member is entitled to one vote on any motion or resolution at all meetings.

6. Directors

(i) There shall be between 5 and 7 who shall be the Chairmen at the member Councils, Committees, and Boards;

(ii) Any Director who ceases to be a duly appointed Chairman of one of the member Councils, Committees or Boards shall be deemed to have resigned as a Director;

(iii) Until the first AGM, the Directors shall consist of the subscribers to the Application and By-laws;

(iv) The Directors shall have the power to appoint Chairmen to head necessary committees, who shall be responsible to the Directors, and shall not hold the designated offices for any period beyond the next AGM;

(v) The Directors shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Joint Secretariat in accordance with the objects, by-laws, and Societies Act;

(vi) A simple majority of the Directors will constitute a quorum at any Director's meeting;

(vii) Any Director may be expelled by a majority vote of Directors for proven dishonesty, or for gross misconduct, or for failing or refusing to carry out his duties as a Director as provided in these By-laws; and

(viii) Directors or other Officers may be paid travelling and living expenses incurred by them in the conduct of their duties, and such other enumeration as is established from time to time.

7. Officers

(i) The Directors from their own number shall, at their first meeting after incorporation and at their first meeting after the AGM in each succeeding year, elect a Chairman and such other officers as are deemed necessary;

(ii) Such officers shall hold office until the conclusion of each AGM at which time a meeting of the newly elected Directors will be convened to elect their successors; and

(iii) The Chairman shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Members and Directors. The Chairman shall be responsible for the general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the Joint Secretariat, including the accurate recordings of minutes of meetings and financial administration. The staff of the Joint Secretariat will provide such services as are required to discharge this responsibility.

8. Borrowing Powers

The Directors may, by a majority vote, borrow funds for capital expenditures and for the current operations of the Joint Secretariat in such manner as they see fit, up to a maximum of 50% of the previous fiscal year's expenditures.

9. Disposal of Funds

(i) All monies received by or on behalf of the Joint Secretariat will be deposited in the Joint Secretariat's bank account in trust for the Joint Secretariat, which account shall be with one of the chartered banks of Canada;

(ii) All disbursements from the trust bank account shall be made by cheque signed by two persons from among such persons appointed by resolution of the Directors for this purpose.

10. Auditor

(i) At the AGM an auditor may be elected for the ensuing year; and

(ii) At each AGM an annual financial statement containing;

a) the assets and liabilities of the Society in the form of a balance sheet, and

b) the receipts and disbursements of the Society since the date of incorporation or the date of the previous financial statement;

and signed by the auditor, or by two Directors if there is no auditor, shall be present for the inspection by the members.

11. Seal and Signing Authority

(i) The seal of the Joint Secretariat shall consist of the word "Seal" in a circle formed by the exact name of the Joint Secretariat;

(ii) The seal shall be kept in the custody of the Chairman and shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except by authority of a resolution of the Directors, and in the presence of the Chairman and at least one other Director;

(iii) The Chairman together with at least one other Director, or any other Officer designated by resolution of the Board of Directors shall have the authority to sign instruments or documents on behalf of the Joint Secretariat.

12. Minutes of Meetings, Books, and Records

All books and records of the Joint Secretariat shall be open to the inspection of members at each AGM.

13. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Joint Secretariat shall end on the 31st day of March of each year.

14. Making, Altering, and Rescinding By-laws

By-laws of the Joint Secretariat may be rescinded, altered or added to at the AGM or by extraordinary resolution of the Joint Secretariat at a general meeting and not otherwise, but no rescission, alteration or addition shall have any effect until it has been registered by the Registrar of Societies.